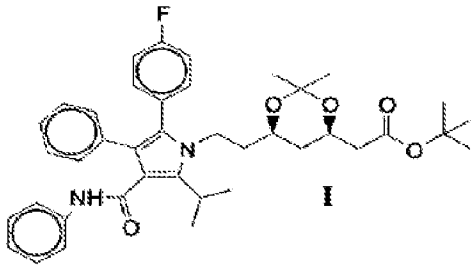
Amendments to the Claims

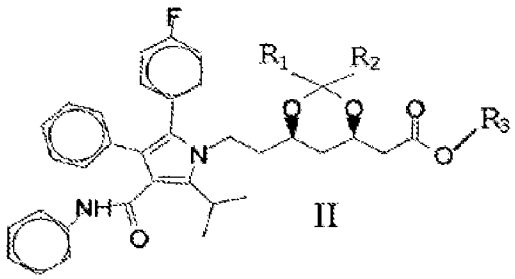
Claims 1-10 (Cancelled)

Claim 11 (Currently amended): A process for the preparation of amorphous atorvastatin calcium which comprises: a) providing a reaction mixture having a pH between 6.5 and 8.0 comprising a sodium salt of atorvastatin and tetrahydrofuran; b)[[ ]] adding a cyclic hydrocarbon solvent selected from the group consisting of cyclohexane and methyl cyclohexane to provide a mixture of organic solvents; c) adding an equivalent or an excess quantity of a source of calcium ions selected from the group consisting of calcium acetate and calcium chloride and d) precipitating amorphous atorvastatin calcium from an organic phase comprising the mixture of organic solvents wherein the isolation comprises adding to said organic phase an ether solvent ~~in which atorvastatin calcium is not soluble or is poorly soluble~~ selected from diisopropyl ether and diethylether and isolating the precipitate containing atorvastatin in amorphous form.

Claim 12 (Previously presented): The process recited in claim 11, wherein the reaction mixture comprising a sodium salt of atorvastatin and tetrahydrofuran is prepared by a process which comprises: a) dissolving a compound of formula I or II in tetrahydrofuran:

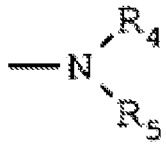


I



II

wherein R_1 and R_2 may independently represent hydrogen, alkyl with one to three carbon atoms, phenyl, or R_1 in R_2 are taken together as $(-CH_2)_n-$, wherein n may be 4 or 5; R_3 may represent straight or branched chain alkyl of from one to eight carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of from three to six carbon atoms; or the group $-O-R_3$ may be substituted by the group with the formula:



wherein R_4 and R_5 may independently represent alkyl with one to ten carbon atoms, cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, benzyl or phenyl, or R_4 in R_5 are taken together to form:

$-(CH_2)_4-$, $-(CH_2)_5-$, $-(CH(R^6)-CH_2)_3-$, $(CH(R^6)-CH_2)_4-$, $-(CH(R^6)-(CH_2)_2-CH(R^6))-$,

$-(CH(R^6)-(CH_2)_3-$, $CH(R^6))-$, $-CH_2-CH_2-O-CH_2-CH_2-$, $-CH(R^6)-CH_2-O-CH_2-CH_2-$,

$CH(R^6)-CH_2-O-CH_2-CH_2$ $(R^6)-$, wherein R^6 represents alkyl with one to four carbon atoms; and b) forming the sodium salt of atorvastatin under a pH between 6.5 and 8.0 in a reaction mixture comprising the tetrahydrofuran.

Claims 13-21 (Canceled)

Claim 22 (Previously presented): A process for the preparation of amorphous atorvastatin calcium according to claim 11, wherein the cyclic hydrocarbon solvent is added in a onefold to fivefold quantity based on the existing volume of the reaction mixture.

Claim 23 (Previously presented): A process for the preparation of amorphous atorvastatin calcium according to claim 11, further comprising adding simultaneously with the addition of the cyclic hydrocarbon solvent a 0.5 fold to a twofold quantity of saturated aqueous solution of sodium chloride based on the existing volume of the reaction mixture.

Claims 24-25 (Canceled)

Claim 26 (Currently amended): A process for the preparation of amorphous atorvastatin calcium according to claim 11, wherein the ether solvent ~~in which atorvastatin calcium is not soluble or is poorly soluble~~ is diisopropylether.

Claim 27 (Currently amended): A process for the preparation of amorphous atorvastatin calcium according to claim 11, wherein the precipitation and isolation isolation of amorphous atorvastatin calcium further comprises: a) adding a solvent in which atorvastatin calcium is soluble, and b) concentrating the resulting atorvastatin calcium preparation, prior to adding the ether solvent ~~in which atorvastatin calcium is not soluble or is poorly soluble~~ selected from diisopropylether and diethylether.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): A process for the preparation of amorphous atorvastatin calcium according to claim 27, wherein the solvent in which atorvastatin calcium is soluble is selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol and propanol.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): A process for the preparation of amorphous atorvastatin calcium according to claim 28, wherein the solvent in which atorvastatin calcium is soluble is methanol.

Claim 30 (Canceled)

Claim 31 (Currently amended): A process for the preparation of amorphous atorvastatin calcium according to claim 27, wherein the ether solvent ~~in which atorvastatin calcium is not soluble or is poorly soluble~~ is diisopropylether.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): A method for the treatment of diseases selected from the group consisting of dyslipidemia, hyperlipidemia, hypercholesterolemia, atherosclerosis, arteriosclerosis, cardiovascular diseases, coronary arterial diseases, coronary heart diseases, disorders of blood circulation, inflammation diseases, bone diseases, disorders of processing beta amyloid precursor protein, said method comprising administering amorphous atorvastatin calcium prepared according to the process of claim 11.

Claim 33 (Previously presented): A pharmaceutical composition comprising amorphous atorvastatin calcium prepared according to the process of claim 11 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.